



Montana Senior Citizens Assn. Inc.

WITH AFFILIATED CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE

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PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

Exhibit No. 5

Date 1-24-07

Bill No. SB 155

Chair, Members of the committee for the record my name is Betty Beverly. I am Executive Director of Montana Senior Citizens Assn., Inc. MSCA is a non-profit non-partisan grassroots organization of Montanans working for all Montanans for the past 33 years. Our membership ranges from 24 year olds to 94 years old because it is not about how old you are but about your future.

Today I am here to support SB 155 because it is about the future of aging services in Montana and how will we as a state and a people meet those needs financially? I want to thank Senator Carol Williams, Senior and Long Term Care Department and the Governor for bringing this bill forward for your consideration.

As I travel the state and talk with seniors and their families it is to help them find the right services for their needs they are so grateful that someone is there to help them and grateful for the services that are provided. We need more people in aging services to help the current population let alone the growing aging population.

What will the needs be in ten or twenty years? What services will we need for seniors? How will the services be changed? All of these are questions I have been asked by legislators and others. I think we need to look back to see how things have changed in senior services such as the focus on elder abuse, alzhiemers, care giving and respite are all now a new focus for aging services. These have not just surfaced but we have become more aware of them through the growing population. The counseling needed for the new Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 is a new need for those turning 65. What may be needed in the future as our state ages a guess but services will be needed for the growing population of retired Montanans.

I urge your support for the Older Montanans Trust Fund and your on going support for the aging population in Montana. Thank You

MSCA is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots membership organization serving all Montana's seniors, their children and grandchildren. It's not about how old you are - it's about your future!